

# **EXHIBIT 2**

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

ROBERT TROHA and FREDERICK BIGNALL,	)	
on behalf of themselves and all others	)	
similarly situated,	)	
	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	Electronically Filed 12/8/2006
	)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. 05-191 E
	)	
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	
_____	)	

**STIPULATIONS REGARDING TITLE MATTERS**

Plaintiffs and class representatives Robert Troha and Frederick Bignall, for themselves and for the certified class of all others similarly situated class members, and Defendant, the United States of America, through counsel, submit the following stipulations regarding title matters.

I. Categorization of the Subject Properties

The parties have undertaken to locate all of the deeds and other documents by which the railroad originally acquired its interest in the railroad corridor at issue in this case. The parties have reviewed each of the deeds and other documents that they were able to locate through diligent and reasonable means, and have agreed to categorize the instruments into several groups for the purposes of facilitating a determination of the nature of the interest that was originally conveyed to the railroad.

The conveyance categories that the parties have identified are as follows:

Category 1 – Warranty Deeds

Category 2 – Warranty Deeds with “as long as” language

Category 3 – Grant Deeds With Release Language

Category 4 – Donation and/or Release Deeds

Category 5 – Unrecorded or Lost Deeds

Category 6 – Condemnation Awards

Category 7 – Parcels With No Known Conveyance Documentation

Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is the parties’ stipulated list of conveyance categories, which identifies each deed or other instrument of conveyance under one of the above-listed categories. The property associated with each deed or other instrument of conveyance is identified by an “ICC Parcel No.” This number corresponds with the parcel number assigned to that property on a schedule of Lands Owned or Used for Purposes of a Common Carrier that was compiled as of June 30, 1918, and filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission or “ICC” for the railroad property at issue in this case (“ICC Schedule”). A copy of this ICC Schedule is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

II. Stipulations Regarding the Ownership Interest Originally Acquired by the Railroad Co.

1. Category 1 (Warranty Deeds) – The parties stipulate that, under Pennsylvania law, each of the deeds listed in Category 1 conveyed a fee simple interest to the railroad company. Consequently, the parties further stipulate that the class members have no ownership interest in the land conveyed to the railroad by these deeds, and thus have no standing to assert a taking of such land in this action.

2. Category 2 (Warranty Deeds with “as long as” language) – The parties stipulate that, under Pennsylvania law, the deed in this category conveyed a fee simple determinable interest to the railroad company. The parties further stipulate that the reversionary interest in this property has not been extinguished under Pennsylvania law, and that the owner of this reversionary interest on the alleged date of taking is the proper class member with regard to the claim that this parcel has been taken.
3. Category 3 (Grant Deeds with Release Language) – The parties have stipulated that Category 3 includes the deeds for ICC Parcel Nos. 3-4 and 4-1, 4-2, 4-3 and 5-3. The parties have not yet been able to reach a stipulation regarding the interest conveyed to the railroad company by these deeds. The parties intend to brief this issue as part of their cross-motions for summary judgment as to liability.
4. Category 4 (Donation and/or Release Deeds) – The parties stipulate that, under Pennsylvania law, the deed for ICC Parcel Nos. 7-1 and 8-2 and the deed for ICC Parcel No. 13-2 conveyed a right-of-way for railroad purposes to the railroad company. See Brookbank v. Benedum-Trees Oil Co., 131 A.2d 103 (Pa. 1957); Bevan v. The Reading Co., 47 Pa. D. & C. 683, 686-91 (Pa. Com. Pl., Chester County 1967). The parties further stipulate that, under Pennsylvania law, the deed for ICC Parcel Nos. 13-3 and 13-4 conveyed fee simple title to the lands described therein to the railroad company.
5. Category 5 (Unrecorded or Lost Deeds) – There are three deeds that are identified on an ICC Schedule, but which could not be located using the book and

page number listed on the schedule. The parties stipulate that, under Pennsylvania law, a rebuttable presumption applies that the railroad company, as the grantee of the missing deeds, acquired fee simple title thereunder. This stipulation is expressly subject to the ability of either party to request that any one of these parcels be recategorized if further title evidence is discovered, including any evidence that would rebut the presumption described herein.

6. Category 6 (Condemnation Awards) – The parties stipulate that, under Pennsylvania law, the condemnation awards entered with regards to the railroad corridor at issue in this case operated to convey a right-of-way for railroad purposes to the railroad company. This interest has been described by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in decisions contemporaneous with the condemnation awards in this case as “a base or conditional fee, terminable on the cesser of the use for railroad purposes.” Pennsylvania S. V. R. Co. v. Reading Paper Mills, 24 A. 205 (Pa. 1892). More recently, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has described the interest that a railroad acquires by condemnation as “a fee simple defeasible in the land, that is, a title subject to defeat in the event the railroad company abandoned the land as a railroad right of way.” Chew v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 161 A.2d 621, 622 (Pa. 1960). The parties further stipulate that the persons who owned fee title the land at the time of the condemnation retained “a possibility of reverter which would ripen into a renewed fee simple ownership if and when the defeasible title in the [railroad] company terminated.” Id. The parties stipulate that the holders of this possibility of

reverter on the alleged date of taking are the proper class members with regard to the claim that the segments of the railroad right-of-way acquired by condemnation have been taken.

7. Category 7 (Parcels With No Known Conveyance Documentation) – There are five original parcels that are identified on the ICC Schedule, but for which there is no listed information relative to a conveyance instrument or condemnation award. The ICC Schedule states for each of these parcels that, as of 1916, the railroad company has been in possession for more than forty years. Based on the available information, the parties stipulate that under Pennsylvania law the railroad company is presumed to have acquired a right-of-way for railroad purposes and that the nature and scope of this interest is the same as the railroad company could have acquired by condemnation, as described above in paragraph 6.

Dated: December 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

SUE ELLEN WOOLDRIDGE  
Assistant Attorney General  
Environment & Natural Resources Division

s/David A. Cohen  
DAVID A. COHEN  
PA Bar I.D. No. 54342  
Counsel of Record for Plaintiffs

THE CULLEN LAW FIRM  
1101 30<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
TEL: (202) 944-8600  
FAX: (202) 944-8611

s/Kristine S. Tardiff  
KRISTINE S. TARDIFF

Counsel of Record for Defendant

United States Department of Justice  
Environment & Natural Resources Division  
Natural Resources Section  
53 Pleasant Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Concord, NH 03301  
TEL: (603) 230-2583  
FAX: (603) 225-1577

OF COUNSEL:  
EVELYN KITAY, Attorney  
Surface Transportation Board  
Office of General Counsel  
Washington, D.C. 20423